India, and Europe, the south coast has had most of the ports for ocean-borne commerce.

CHINA PROPER: CLIMATE

|£LS to climate, China proper lies almost entirely in the temperate zone. Only portions of the three southernmost provinces, Yiinnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung, are within the tropic^ Seasonal differences are marked. In the spring and summer, the arid land-masses to the north and northwest of China proper heat more quickly ^han do the seas to the east and south, and the warm air, rising, creates areas of low pressure. As a result, moisture-laden winds sweep northward from the ocean, bringing rain./'In the autumn and winter the process is reversed. The air overate great northern and western land-barriers cools more rapidly than that over the tropical and sub-tropical seas to the south, and, moving southward, brings clear skies and lower temperatures. Consequently, China proper has most of its rain in the spring and summer.

fro the south, nearer the sources of the cloud-carrying winds, and* where the coast is backed by mountains which precipitate the moisture as it comes in from the ocean, the rainfall is heavy|) At Hongkong it amounts to more than eighty inches a year and along the south coast it averages almost sixty inches. In Central China the precipitation averages about forty inches a year and in {he Yangtze delta forty-five. In both South and Central China the summer humidity is high, ranging in the sixties, seventies, and eighties. In the North, farther from the sources of moisture;' the rainfall declines, usually being between twenty and thirty inches on the coast and much less inland.

fTorrential xains are known in the summer, both in the North

an3 the South] In Southwest Hopei (Chihli) twenty-three inches fell in thirty-three hours in the summer of 1924, and more than once Hongkong has had over twenty inches in twenty-four hours. The heavy summer rains account in part for the rapid rise of the rivers in that season and for the frequent floods.

«OTirougJiout China, because of this monsoonal climate, the aummns are usually bracing and the winters cool or cold. Ice occasionally forms as far south as Canton—about the latitude of Havana and Calcutta. No other large seacoast tropical city in